





جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي
تيسمسيلت-

المعيار

مجلة نصف سنوية متعددة التخصصات
مصنفة " C "

في الآداب، الحقوق والعلوم السياسية، علوم وتقنيات
النشاطات البدنية والرياضية، العلوم الاقتصادية، والعلوم الإنسانية
والاجتماعية

المجلد السادس عشر العدد 01 جوان 2025

EISSN 2602-6376

ISSN 2170-0931

المعيار

مجلة نصف سنوية متعددة التخصصات
مصنفة " C "



جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، تيسمسيلت - الجزائر -

شروط النشر وضوابطه

-المعيار مجلة علمية مصنفة تنشر البحوث الأكاديمية والدراسات الفكرية والعلمية والأدبية التي لم يسبق نشرها من قبل.

- دورية تصدر مرتين في السنة عن جامعة بتيسمسيلت. الجزائر.

- تُقبل البحوث باللغات العربية والفرنسية والانجليزية.

- ضرورة وجود مختصر أو تمهيد للمقال سواء باللغة العربية أو الأجنبية.

- تخضع البحوث والدراسات المقدمة للمجلة للشروط الأكاديمية المتعارف عليها.

- تخضع البحوث للتحكيم من طرف اللجنة العلمية للمجلة.

- تتم الكتابة بخط (Traditional Arabic) حجم (15)، وفي الهامش بالخط نفسه حجم (14).

- تتم كتابة البحوث كاملة أو الفقرات والمصطلحات والكلمات باللغة الأجنبية داخل البحوث المكتوبة باللغة

الفرنسية بخط (Times new roman) حجم (12)، وفي الهامش بالخط نفسه حجم (10).

- تكون الهوامش والإحالات على طريقة أسلوب APA

- لا يقل حجم البحث عن 08 صفحات ولا تتجاوز 15 صفحة.

- المواد المنشورة تعبر عن آراء أصحابها، والمجلة غير مسئولة عن آراء وأحكام الكتاب. كما أن ترتيب البحوث يخضع لاعتبارات تقنية وفنية.

المدير المسنول عن النشر

أ. د. عيساني امحمد.

المعيار

المجلد السادس عشر العدد 1 جوان 2025

مجلة نصف سنوية متعددة التخصصات

مصنفة " C "

تصدر عن جامعة تيسمسيلت - الجزائر

توجه جميع المراسلات باسم رئيس التحرير

عن طريق البوابة الإلكترونية www.asjp.cerist.dz

جامعة تيسمسيلت. الجزائر.

البريد الإلكتروني: www.cuniv.tissemsilt.dz

EISSN 2602-6376

ISSN 2170-0931

رئيس المجلة:

أ. د. دهوم عبد المجيد

المدير المسؤول عن النشر:

أ. د. عيساني محمد

رئيس التحرير:

أ. د. مرسي رشيد.

نواب رئيس التحرير:

أ. د. واضح أحمد الأمين، أ. د. علاق عبد القادر، أ. د. العيداني الياس، أ. د. عطار خالد،

أ. د. لكحل فيصل، أ. د. قاسم قادة، د. دهقاني أيوب، أ. د. بوسكرة عمر.

سكرتيرا المجلة:

عرجان نورة

عطار خالد

هيئة التحرير:

أ.د. غربي بكاي، أ.د. قاسم قادة، أ. د. عطار خالد، د. صالح ربوح، أ.د. مصاييح محمد، د. بن رابح خير الدين، أ. د. بوسيف إسماعيل، أ.د. بوراس محمد، أ. د. شريط عابد، د. محي الدين محمود عمر، أ.د. روشو خالد، أ.د. العيداني إلياس، أ.د. فايد محمد

الهيئة العلمية:

من جامعة تيسمسيلت: أ.د. بن فريجة الجلالي، أ.د. أحمد واضح أمين، أ.د. تواتي خالد، د. ربوح صالح، أ.د. غربي بكاي، أ.د. بوركة ختة، أ.د. طعام شامخة، أ.د. شريف سعاد، أ.د. يعقوبي قدوية، أ.د. مرسللي مسعودة، أ.د. بن علي خلف الله، أ.د. رزايقية محمود، أ. د. بوغاري فاطمة، أ.د. قردان ميلود، أ.د. يونس محمد، أ.د. فتوح محمود، أ.د. عيسى حورية، د. بوضوار صورية، د. وسواس نجاة، أ. د. بوزيان أحمد، أ.د. بشير دردار، من جامعة صفاقس، تونس: أ. د. عبد الحميد عبد الواحد، د. بوبكر بن عبد الكريم، من جامعة المنصورة، مصر: د. محمد كمال سرحان، من جامعة طرابلس، ليبيا: د. أحمد رشراش، من الجامعة الأردنية، الأردن: أ. د صادق الحايك، من جامعة الجزائر 03، الجزائر: د. فتحي بلغول، من جامعة لمين دباغين، سطيف: أ. د بوطالي بن جدو، من جامعة وهران: أ. د. مخطار حبار، من جامعة سيدي بلعباس: أ. د. محمد بلوحي، من جامعة سعيدة: د. عبد القادر راجحي، من جامعة تلمسان: أ. د. محمد عباس، أ. د. عبد الجليل مرتاض، من جامعة تيزي وزو: أ. د. مصطفى درواش، من جامعة مستغانم: د. منصور بن لكحل، من جامعة زيان عاشور، الجلفة: د. حربي سليم، د. علة مختار، عروي مختار، من جامعة حسيبة بن بوعلي، شلف: أ. د حفصاوي بن يوسف، أ. د موسى فريد، أ. د. بوراس محمد، أ. د. علاق عبد القادر، أ. د. روشو خالد، أ.د. مرسي مشري، د. لعروسي أحمد، د. قزران مصطفى، د. زرقين عبد القادر، د. محمودي قادة، أ.د. العيداني إلياس، د. عيسى سماعيل، د. بوزكري الجيلالي، د. ضويفي حمزة، د. كروش نور الدين ، د. بوكريدي عبد القادر، د. عادل رضوان. من جامعة ابن خلدون تيارت: أ. د. عليان بوزيان، أ. د. فتاك علي، أ. د. بو سماحة الشيخ، أ. د. بن داود إبراهيم، أ. د.

شريط عابد. UNIVERSITIE PAUL SABATIER TOULOUZE 03. FRANCE: CRISTINE

Mensson

كلمة العدد

السلام عليكم،

بعد واجب التّحيّة تطل عليكم مجلة المعيار – كما عودتكم – بمجلد جديد وعدد متجدد هو المجلد السادس عشر، العدد الأول، حاملة في طيّاتها مجموعة ثرية ومتنوعة من المقالات العلميّة والبحوث الأكاديمية، التي تتناول طيفا واسعا من المواضيع والقضايا التي تهم القارئ المتطلّع للمعرفة والفهم العميق.

وكالمتوقع، يتضمن هذا العدد نخبة من المقالات التي كتبت بأقلام نيرة، وبأفكار ناضجة، تجمع بين العمق العلمي والطّرح الجذّاب، وذلك في مجالات شتى، تشمل: الأدب، والقانون، والسياسة، والاقتصاد، والاجتماع، وغيرها وبلسان مختلف اللّغات منها الانجليزية، الفرنسية والألمانية، ومن الميادين التي تتجدّد أهميتها مع متغيرات الواقع وتحديات العصر.

وما يضيفي على هذا العدد طابعا خاصّا، هو ما يتضمنه من أعمال كتبت من داخل الوطن ومن خارجه، في دليل واضح على عمق الامتداد العلميّ للمجلة، وحرصها على جمع الآراء والأصوات العلميّة من كافة الأصقاع، فكلّ مقال يضيف بعدا ورؤية تساهم في بناء معرفة شاملة ورؤية متوازنة نتطلّع من خلالها إلى نيل رضى القارئ والفوز بإعجابه.

المدير المسؤول عن النشر

أ.د. عيساني محمد

محتويات العدد

الرقم	الموضوع	الصفحة
	كلمة العدد أ. د. عيساني امحمد	هـ
01	أثر السياق النحوي في إظهار معنى القراءات ياسر بن محمد الخليل -جامعة القصيم، كلية اللغة العربية والدراسات الاجتماعية، السعودية	16-1
02	أعلام النزعة الأخلاقية للشعر الزباني وموضوعاته د. مولاي البودخيلي سيدي عبد الرحيم -جامعة أبي بكر بلقايد، تلمسان، الجزائر.	24-17
03	الانسجام النصي في قصيدة" تجلّت الفوارس " للشاعر مسعد محمد زياد بحري قويدر -جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، تيسمسيلت، الجزائر	40-25
04	التأويل النحوي عند علماء العربية القدامى حاج مدني خديجة -جامعة محمد لمين دباغين سطيف2، الجزائر.	53-41
05	التجريب السردى عند سمير قسيبي: بين مقتضيات البنية وتجليات الرؤية علاك نصيرة-المركز الجامعي مرسلّي عبد الله تيبازة، الجزائر.	72-54
06	الجناس وتقسيم المقسم بن عطاء الله مليكة -جامعة قاصدي مرباح ورقلة، الجزائر	85-73
07	القضية الفلسطينية بين الإبداع الأدبي والإبداع السينمائي (روايات غسان كنفاني نموذجاً) لخضر سعيد بلعربي -جامعة ابن خلدون تيارت، الجزائر	99-86
08	المعتقدات الشعبية في منطقة الونشريس –الأصول والامتداد – أ. د. غربي بكاي -جامعة تيسمسيلت أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، تيسمسيلت، الجزائر.	109-100
09	النظرية الذهنية اللغوية – دراسة تحليلية لأراء "راي جاكندوف" حول البنية التصورية- بودانة طه الأمين-المركز الجامعي أفلو، الجزائر	119-110
10	بلاغة الصورة بين البيان والتصوير عند سيد قطب ط. د رايس نورية / أ. د بلمرسلي السبع -جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	133-120
11	تحولات الخطاب النقدي العربي المعاصر من النسق اللغوي إلى النسق الثقافي قراءة في نماذج د. ناجي نادية -المركز الجامعي شريف بوشوشة أفلو، الجزائر	145-134
12	تحولات الكتابة الشعرية ومحاولة التخطي دائماً بدر شاكر السياب أنموذجاً ط. د. عيادي خالد / أ. د. محمودي بشير -جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	158-146
13	جهود عبد الكريم الفكون الصرفية من خلال كتابه: فتح اللطيف أ. د بلحسين محمد -جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	166-159
14	حذف نون الفعل المضارع في القرآن الكريم بين القراءة والنحاة أ. د. مسعودة مرسلّي -جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، تيسمسيلت، الجزائر	183-167
15	فاعلية الخرائط الذهنية في تعليم النحو "السنة الأولى متوسط أنموذجاً" كجعو طاطمة-المركز الجامعي مرسلّي عبد الله، تيبازة، الجزائر	197-184
16	مستوى قصور الانتباه لدى تلاميذ المرحلة التحضيرية من وجهة نظر المعلمين د. طوبال فطيمة-جامعة محمد لمين دباغين سطيف 2-، الجزائر	210-198
17	مظاهر التجديد في الدرس البلاغي المعاصر عند صلاح فضل ومحمد عبد المطلب مختيش شريفة -جامعة 20 أوت 1955 سكيكدة، الجزائر	218-211
18	من أساليب الحذف التركيبي في القرآن الكريم –الاحتباك- ط. د. بومدين مصطفى لامين / أ. د. بوعرارة محمد -جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، تيسمسيلت، الجزائر	231-219
19	Einfluss kultureller Aspekte auf den Fremdsprachenunterricht Influence of cultural aspects on foreign language teaching ZOUIRA Mohamed -Universität Oran2, Mohamed Ben Ahmed, algerien	243-232
20	Fostering Autonomy in Language Learning through Artificial Intelligence Bensalah Hiba- Ibn Khaldoun University, Tiaret, Algeria	257-244

269-258	Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut’s “Harrison Bergeron” Ounis Chahrazad -University of Algiers 2, Algeria	21
285-270	Suprasegmental phonemes in linguistic analysis Messaoudi fadela -University center of Maghnia, Algeria	22
299-286	Traduire Le Roman Algerien D’expression Française : Entre Forme Hybride Et Questionnement Identitaire Bousseboua Zeineb-Université des Frères Mentouri. Constantine 1. Algérie	23
315-300	Unraveling Reciprocal Intricacies in The Iceman Cometh and “Hughie”: Intertextual Misreadings Dekkiche Mohamed Amine / Prof. Kaced Assia University of Algiers , Abou El Kacem Saâdallah, Algeria	24
330-316	الإكراه الاقتصادي في ميزان العلاقات الدولية: دراسة في فعالية البدائل غير العسكرية بوجلال عمر -جامعة سيدي بلعباس، الجزائر.	25
346-331	الاهتمام الدولي بالتعليم من أجل التنمية المستدامة د. عتو أحمد -جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي -تيسمسيلت-الجزائر	26
362-347	الحق في بيئة سليمة من منظور التشريع الجزائري والقانون الدولي أبو القاسم عيسى -جامعة غرداية، الجزائر	27
376-363	المواطنة الرقمية: إحياء للمثال الديمقراطي أو تكريس للهيمنة الليبرالية د. بلعموري نعيم -جامعة الجيلالي بونعامة خميس مليانة، الجزائر	28
391-377	آليات دعم العمل والفكر المقاولاتي في الجزائر قندوز أحمد / عبد المجيد بلغيث -جامعة أوبوكر بلقايد تلمسان، الجزائر	29
408-392	دراسة اتجاهات المستهلك الجزائري نحو تبني تطبيقات الذكاء الاصطناعي في اختيار الوجهات السياحية الخارجية: دراسة تحليلية استطلاعية زرادنة محمد -جامعة تيسمسيلت، الجزائر.	30
425-409	واقع ادارة المخاطر التشغيلية في البنوك الجزائرية قلي سهام 1 / خلف الله حسام الدين -جامعة تونس المنار، تونس	31
439-426	Exploring the Impact of Blockchain Technology on Modern Financial Systems Djerfi Abderahmane, University of jijel, Algeria /Chaalal cherif Abdelillah Ibn khaldoun university, Tiaet	32
454-440	The reality of the digital economy in Algeria through the study of the information technology sector during the period 2015-2024 Kebaili Abdennour / Deghmoum Hichem, University of Algiers3, Algeria	33
470-455	متطلبات التوجيه المهني ودورها تحقيق الأداء المتميز لدى العاملين في المنشآت الرياضية د بلقرش محمد / أ. د عمارة نور الدين-جامعة المسيلة، الجزائر	34
480-471	أسس البناء الحضاري في منهج مالك بن نبي بناء النهضة - أنموذجا- د. بوعلام حمديدي/ د. فريال طيبون- جامعة أحمد بوقرة بومرداس، الجزائر	35
496-481	الإشراف العلمي في البحوث الأكاديمية (التأزر بين دور المشرف ودور الباحث في إنجاح البحوث العلمية) حرزي السعيد / كتفي ياسمينه -جامعة محمد بوضياف المسيلة، الجزائر.	36
512-497	التماسك الاجتماعي سرورة مفاهيمية وتعدد تصوراتي ط. د معزوزي ناصر / أ. د بكاي رشيد-جامعة عمارثليجي الأغواط، الجزائر	37
528-513	الحدثة وما بعد الحدثة في الموروث السوسيولوجي زهواني عمر-جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	38
537-529	الخطاب الديني في الفكر العربي المعاصر محمد أركون نموذجا د. سحوان رضوان، جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	39
552-538	الدرس الفلسفي وإمكانية التعليم الرقمي بوحسين جلول / أ. د. بن ناصر حاجة -جامعة ابن خلدون، تيارت، الجزائر	40
564-553	جوانب من الحركة العلمية في مدينة مازونة ونواحيها من النصف الثاني للقرن 12هـ/13م إلى القرن 13هـ/14م د. بوشامة أحمد-جامعة أحمد بن يحيى الزنشريسي تيسمسيلت، الجزائر	41
578-565	دور التحول الرقمي في جودة الخدمة العمومية في الجزائر ط. د بوشياخي عبد اللطيف/ ط. د بوشياخي عصام/ أ. دنقاز نجيبه - 2,1 كلية الحقوق، جامعة صفاقس، تونس/3كلية الحقوق، جامعة أريانا، تونس	42

593-579	دور المسؤولية الاجتماعية للمؤسسات من المنظور الإسلامي في تحقيق التنمية المستدامة عاصمي نبيلة -أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، الجزائر/ موسى عيسى -جامعة مولود معمري -تيزي وزو، الجزائر.	43
606-594	مبدأ مراعاة مقاصد المكلفين وأثره في فقه المعاملات المالية في المذهب المالكي صرموم رايح-أحمد بن يحيى الونشريسي، الجزائر	44
624-607	مساهمة سي محمد ولد سي حمزة في مواجهة الاستعمار الفرنسي بالجنوب الغربي الجزائري (1865.1864) ط. د. قايد عزالدين/ د. مايدي كمال -المركز الجامعي الشريف بوشوشة، أفلو، الجزائر	45
641-625	معوقات البحث العلمي في الجزائر والحلول الناجمة أ. د. العيمش محمد/ د. هاشم رايح -ملحقة قصر الشلالة. جامعة تيارت، الجزائر	46
657-642	Algerian Family Ben Djelal al-Tlemceni:One hundred years of scientific contribution in Fes (10th-11th Century Hijri / 16th -17th Century) Dr. Saidani Mahfoudh- Djilali Bounaama University, Khemis Miliana, Algeria	47
665-658	Arab Christians and the writing of Ottoman history, the Lebanese historian Philip Hitti (1886- 1978) as a model Abderrazak Toumiat- Yahia Fares University , Medea, Algeria	48
680-666	Exploring Destructive Patriarchy and Subversive Ideological Forces in Sam Shepard's Curse of the Starving Class (1977) and Buried Child (1978) Amina Mechta / Pr. Assia Kaced, University of Algiers, Algeria	49
696-681	Rhetorical Techniques in the Treatise on Argumentation (1958) byChaim Perelman (1912-1984) and Lucie Olbrechts (1899-1987) Zhor Hameurlaine - Ibn khaldoun university of tiaret , Algeria	50
711-697	The Aesthetics of Time and Place in the Novel The Scent of a Woman by Amin Zaoui Arioua Mounir - University of Boumerdes , Algeria	51
726-712	The Deconstructive Method in Philosophy and Its Applications in the Arab-Islamic Heritage: Mohamed Arkoun as a Model LAKHEL Hamdi - Mohamed Kheider University, Biskra, Algeria	52
741-727	The Reality of Household Food Waste Reduction Among Families in Chlef Province: An Analysis of Awareness, Behaviors, and Influencing Factors Nacef Mohammed - Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef, , Algeria	53

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"



Chahrazad Ounis

University of Algiers 2, Algeria

chahrazed.ounis-univ-alger2.dz

Date of transmission: 5/03/ 2025, date of acceptance: 29/05/ 2025

Abstract

The article explores the issues of authoritarianism and conformity as central themes in Kurt Vonnegut's short story "Harrison Bergeron" (1961) with a focus on the scope of resistance . Studying authoritarianism as understood by John Duckitt reveals the incongruities of anti - democratic political systems while the analysis of conformity through reference to Herbert Kelman's conformity personality types demonstrates how controlling the freedom of thinking can consolidate the conformity of the citizens . Resistance , as a thematic concern , is analyzed in the light of Michel Foucault's notion on power and opposition . Harrison Bergeron's act of rebellion was desperately aborted by the governing system putting forward a strong suggestion about the limits of resistance under such oppressive systems . Vonnegut's employment of satirical techniques to convey the themes in question further enlarges our understanding of the serious issues related to authoritarianism and eventually makes Kurt Vonnegut's short story stand as a denunciation of anti- democratic ideologies.

key words: Authoritarianism , conformity , ant - democratic ideology, power , resistance , Harrison Bergeron

* Chahrazad Ounis

Introduction

The individual has always been in a constant struggle between preserving individual freedom and maintaining some sort of social belongingness by conforming to common rules. However, while conforming moderately to a set of rules is necessary to reach a certain kind of social cohesion, imposed conformity under authoritarian regimes can threaten individual freedom particularly the freedom of thinking. More importantly, the issue of how much social conformity is tolerated at the expense of personal liberty has been at the center of attention of intellectuals who belong to a nation that has attempted to reach the ideal of creating a democracy. Indeed, the United States knew phases in its history that shook the notion of democracy as certain ideologies were injected with authoritarian anti - democratic practices putting the democracy it preaches under question. Various works exposed the nation's attempts to silence opposing ideas at various historical phases. Hofstadter (1964) , in *The Paranoid Style in American Politics* revealed a tendency in the American government characterized by great suspicion and paranoia that resulted in unfair and irrational measures and practices . The book was written during the anti - communist wave that characterized the American political mode . In *Anti- intellectualism in American Life* , Hofstadter (1963) exposes the hostility of the American institutions towards the intellect , intellectuals , and intellectualism¹. Furthermore, *Silencing the Opposition : Government Strategies of Suppression of Freedom of Expression* (Graig , 1997) is another work that shows how government forces resort to rhetorical strategies to silence the opposition referring to case studies throughout history.

Literature concerns itself with such significant matters as well . Rather than just mirroring facts , fiction participates in history by either perpetuating or denouncing the prevailing ideologies . The literary text “ enters into relation with an always partial range of the historically determined values , interests , needs , powers , and capacities which surround it” (Eagleton , 1976, p.186) . An early case in point that demonstrates the significance of literature as an interacting agent that continuously raises consciousness about social and political concerns is George Orwell's *1984* (1949) . It unveils how a political system can bear authoritarian ideologies that threaten and suppress individual freedom . Denouncing authoritarian political forms in a way that is much similar to Orwell's is found in Vonnegut's science fiction work “Harrison Bergeron” (1961) . The short story is an example of the writer's early denunciation of any form of authoritarianism that

¹ Anti – intellectualism , as defined by Richard Hofstadter , is a resentment and suspicion of the life of the mind and of those who are considered to represent it, and a disposition constantly to minimize the value of that.

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

attempts to oppress people and silence the freedom of expression . Several works explored Vonnegut's fiction as a vehicle for social critique and political activism . Also, Vonnegut's satire as well proves to be a fertile material of examination serving as his tool to transmit his political and social engagement . For instance , in *Lost in Adaptation : Kurt Vonnegut Radical Humor in Film and Print* , P. L. Thomas (2012) uncovers the strength of Vonnegut's humor that is unfortunately lost in cinematic adaptations as the latter fail to capture the satire enveloping the writer's political assumptions. "*A Launching Pad of Beliefs*" : Kurt Vonnegut and Post Modern Humor (Brown , 2009) is another study that questions the significance of Vonnegut's humor in other fictional works . However, this article offers a particular deep reading of the short story "Harrison Bergeron" by focusing on the satirical implications regarding the dangers of authoritarian ideologies that require unconditional conformity . Studies on this particular short story overlook the link between satire and its critique of authoritarian oppressive practices. The dystopian American government of the short story attempts to reach a seemingly noble aim of social equality , yet it ironically creates a very mediocre society because of its authoritarian oppressive practices.

In fact , this article raises questions regarding the potential dangers of submitting and conforming blindly to authoritarian oppressive governments . It attempts to explore the story's discourse towards anti - democratic political systems : How such regimes succeed in controlling the masses and whether resistance is possible and fruitful . In the short story, the authoritarian practices of the dystopian government , represented in the handicapping measures to set equality among its citizens , are in effect just ways to target and control the freedom of thought which is the most private property an individual can have. Additionally, because conformity has to be imposed to maintain authoritarian power , the study seeks to explore the power of such regimes to blindly lead the citizens to conform to rules even when they are clearly unfair and abusive . In fact, the 2081 American government succeeds in turning the citizens into mediocre conformists not through punishment only but more importantly through controlling their thoughts . Eventually , the study aims to evaluate the main character's resistance , to understand the implications of its failure , and to explore the reason why Vonnegut subsequently opts for aborting Harrison's act of opposition . Furthermore , understanding the work's stance towards authoritarian practices cannot be fully understood without considering the writer's satire . In fact , Vonnegut's style is commonly known as highly satirical since he views humor as one's resort in desperate traumatic situations . For example , he

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

comments about reacting with laughter after experiencing the dramatic bombing in Dresden stating "God knows, that's the soul seeking some relief" (*A Man Without a Country* , 2005, p.3) . He also said that " humor is a way of holding off how awful life can be , to protect yourself" (Man , 2005, p.129). Thus, exploring how Vonnegut employs satirical techniques including humor , irony , the ridicule, and exaggeration becomes quite necessary as they are the tools with which Vonnegut conveys his messages about the serious issue of the danger underlying authoritarian power and conformity .

Concerning the theoretical framework , the study offers an analytical study of the work in question based on theoretical notions that are related to the themes central to the study . Hence , it studies the theme of authoritarianism as explained and understood by Duckitt (2005) who offers an understanding of the concept authoritarianism as a group phenomenon that can be seen as a political tendency as well . Additionally , understanding conformity as well as the non -conformity of the main character 'Harrison Bergeron' requires reference to Kelman's (1958) study of conformity personality types to perceive the extent to which such ideological tendencies can easily maintain conformity by restraining thinking . More importantly , the pessimistic tragic end of the story reflected in the failure of Harrison's resistance can be well understood through the lenses of Foucault's (1982) theoretical notions on how power creates and subverts opposition .

The paper suggests a theoretical literary analysis of three essential thematic elements through reference to the writer's satirical devices. It explores the theme of authoritarianism by focusing analysis on the aspects and institutions that make this dystopian government an authoritarian one . This is achieved through an important focus on the oppressive practices to target the freedom of thinking including the media , the police , and the handicapping devices . Besides , to evaluate the conformity of the citizens and view its danger , the characters are studied to highlight the dangerous impact of limiting the freedom of thought that leads to the creation of mediocre conformists and non – conformists . Eventually, the study explores the scope of resistance and its effectiveness.

1. Understanding the Mechanisms of Authoritarianism

Early studies of the concept / phenomenon of authoritarianism appeared first in Adorno's *The Authoritarian Personality* (1950) as a character psychological study to investigate the roots of anti - Semitism. Later , it was reviewed by Altemeyer (1996) who studied the concept in terms of personality aspects as well

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

. Duckitt (2005) provided a new conceptualization of the term and studied it as a psycho - political phenomenon . In fact, in "Authoritarianism , Conceptualization, Research, and New Developments" , he states that " it is argued that authoritarianism can be viewed as a morally absolutist and intolerant desire for the coercive imposition of particular beliefs , values , way of life and form of social organization . . . on people irrespective of their wishes and of any human costs involved". (Duckitt , 2005 , p, 190) . His conceptualization identifies three important elements for anti-democratic political tendencies notably intolerance , coercive imposition , and injustice . These elements indeed characterize the setting of the short story in question.

In fact , the presence of these aspects make the story's dystopian American government typically authoritarian . In the first paragraphs of the story "Harrison Bergeron", Vonnegut refers to Law exemplified in the 211,212, and 213 amendments to the constitution . These amendments enable the government to legitimately impose an unfair ideology of equality among its citizens as this law requires people to wear certain physical and mental handicapping devices to make sure no one is better than the other . (Vonnegut, 1961, p.1) . This coercive imposition is further reinforced by a character that represents the authoritarian government Diana Moon Glampers who is the handicapper general that ensures respecting this law of equality with the help of her vigilant agents too . Additionally , the element of coercion , by which the government maintains its power , is hinted at in the conversation between Hazel and George (Harrison's parents). George points out to the punishment one can face when trying to get away with these handicapping devices . In this particular scene , Hazel , who does not have to wear any of these devices because her intelligence proves to be too moderate , asks her husband to reduce the weight of the devices to have some rest , but he responds with " two years in prison and two thousand dollars fine for every ball I take out." (Vonnegut, 1961, p. 2). This is a clear suggestion that this government rules by force . The force of the law punishing any attempt of deviance.

Furthermore, the aspect of intolerance in the short story is exemplified in shaping and controlling the public opinion through the media to consolidate the government's power and anti - democratic ideologies . In fact , the television's constant presence with the content it broadcasts makes it stand as an authoritarian agent in the story . In the opening scene , Harrison Bergeron's parents are watching television and the ballerinas' show is a powerful example of how governments consolidate their imposed mindset through the media. More clearly, the dancers appear to wear those physical burdens and masks to make sure that

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

everyone looks , in George's words "as everybody else" (Vonnegut, 1961, p.2) . The dancing of the ballerinas is supposed to be an entertaining program, yet it only broadcasts messages to suppress any dissenting attempts . In fact, while watching the show , George's thoughts are interrupted with one of those sharp noises transmitted by a little mental handicap radio in his ear that he 'had to wear it all times by law' as his intelligence was labelled ' way above normal ' (Vonnegut , p.2). The fact that two of the ballerinas had the same wincing reaction as George and had collapsed to the studio floor right after the next noise indicates that media is showing its citizens that what they are living is 'normal' so that people unconsciously internalize and normalize those unfair laws. This scene does not only demonstrate how the media can be a means to reinforce authoritarian ideologies, but also reveals how cruel and inhuman such systems are.

In addition to law and intolerance, injustice represents the third anti – democratic aspect that makes the setting of the story authoritarian . Injustice is closely linked to the theme of suppressing the freedom of thought . In other words, because resistance starts as an idea , authoritarian regimes or political systems with authoritarian tendencies have their citizens' thoughts as their primary target. In the story , Vonnegut's 2081 government resonates the American government attempts , at different phases in its history , to suppress any thinking that appears to be different from the imposed ideology ; hence, seen as a potential threat that has to be removed . In fact , this is demonstrated in the story by placing 'thinking' as the principle concern of the American government's amendments . To achieve equality , the amendments made sure that "nobody was smarter than anybody else" (Vonnegut, 1961, p.1) . Additionally , readers learn that George has to wear a small device transmitting annoying noise every twenty seconds due to his high intelligence. The several instances where George's thoughts are cut because of this transmitter represent a strong evidence that the government's aim is to limit the freedom of thought . In fact , the noise in George's ear becomes a motif running throughout the story occurring six times to prevent George , and similar brilliant minds , from " taking unfair advantage of their brains" (Vonnegut, p.1). Two important instances are worth mentioning . The first one occurs when George starts to think about his 14-year old arrested son and another when he thinks that ballerinas should not be handicapped . These cases show that in this dystopian society , thinking reasonably is a threat . After the second noise that runs into George's ear , he grows " white and trembling and tears stood on the rims of his red eyes ". (Vonnegut, p.3) . This is an indication that this government is mentally

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

torturing its citizens highlighting the horror such systems can bring to human beings for the sake of consolidating power .

Typical to Vonnegut, satirizing the tragic becomes inevitable to transmit horrifying issues softly. In fact , the depiction of the authoritarian regime in the short story is wholly satirized . The idea of spreading equality is itself ironical as the government attempts to ensure equality, which is a noble aim as it appears , through unfair practices obliging its citizens to wear handicapping devices . Also, the term handicapping bears a sense of humor as the government could make its people equal by elevating the chances of those less good looking and less intelligent rather than doing the opposite . Another satirical manner to describe this futurist authoritarian system is linked to the noise that is transmitted to prevent them from taking unfair advantage of their brains . In other words , this shows that the citizens are punished and tortured not for their vices or potential criminality as it should be the case but ironically for their virtues : for being way too smart . Besides the noise , there is a satirical technique with which Vonnegut ridicules the government which is the description of the government's arrest of the threatening non - conformist Harrison who is , ironically, just a boy below adult age . The diction that Vonnegut employs is also a device by which the writer uncovers the discrepancies of oppressive ideologies. In a particular scene in the story , one of the ballerinas , mistaking , reads the news using her real beautiful voice , but that voice is described as being “ a very unfair ” one. (Vonnegut, 1961, p.3) . The reason behind satire is to show how political leaders can legitimize their policies when they are clearly illegitimate and unfair.

2. Conforming Blindly is the Real Threat

Conformity as a theme is at the heart of the story since it is a condition to the perpetuation of authority as anti - democratic regimes tend to turn the citizens into true conformists to avoid any potential threat . It is defined as “ an acceptance of influence and an agreement to socially accepted conventions . ” (Kelman , 1958, p. 52) . However, this agreement seems to vary from an individual to another distinguishing three types of conformity : compliance, internalization, and identification . Studying the portrayal of the characters' behavior , reaction , and stance towards all forms of authority through applying Kelman's personality types reveals the inaccuracies enveloping authoritarian governments . In fact , both George and Hazel seem to belong to the second type of conformists that accept

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

publically and privately the imposed rules and show no attempt to deviate. Still , looking closely at George's behavior places him as a compliant who conforms only publically . Indeed , this character holds some unfortunately incomplete thoughts that go against the government's ideology as when "he was toying with the vague notion that may be dancers shouldn't be handicapped " (Vonnegut , 1961, p .1). Another instance that places George as a compliant or a private non - conformist is apparent when he replies to his wife's request to remove the handicapping devices . George refers instantly with a statement about the law punishment . This means that he is not totally convinced about the rules of the system but conforms just for fear of punishment. (Vonnegut , p.2).

Unlike George , Hazel is portrayed as a true conformist . This is due probably to her average intelligence as she does not only question the imposed laws , but she is ironically described as envious of the interesting sounds that are transmitted into her husband's ear . Imagining herself as handicapper general , she suggests she would add chimes on Sunday and make them louder! (Vonnegut, 1961, p.2). Vonnegut ridicules Hazel since she behaves stupidly although she experiences daily the painful feeling her husband endures because of the transmitted sounds . Hazel's character, though appears unimportant , serves to raise awareness about the danger of unquestioned conformity that creates people who accept rules that are clearly inhuman . In addition to Hazel , the Handicapper General Diana Moon Glampers is another character that can be labelled as a true conformist . Glampers stands for authority as she identifies with the system that is why she appears to be attracted to the content of that system due to her position . She makes sure no one deviates and does not hesitate to kill a 14 - year old boy for breaking the law . Thus , all the characters of the story , except for Harrison , conform in a way or another to the codes imposed by the political system . Studying conformity through the characters helps understand the issue / theme of authoritarianism in its full meaning and raise questions about the possibility and fruitfulness of any form of opposition .

3. Assessing Harrison Bergeron's Resistance

The individual's rejection of abusive authority is commonly perceived as a form of heroic deviance. In fact , the main character Harrison Bergeron , though below adult age , is a character that gains the readership sympathy and admiration for being able to see the injustices of the system and stands against its abusive authoritarian practices . However , his unexpected failure to overthrow the

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

government at the end of the story raises questions about the possibility of a successful true opposition against an oppressive powerful system . In the "Subject and Power" , Foucault (1982) suggests a complementary relation between power and resistance as the latter becomes a condition for the perpetuation of the former. (Foucault , 1982 , p . 790). More clearly , power works through creating , challenging , and eventually reversing or suppressing resistance (Foucault , *The History of Sexuality* , p. 92). This pessimistic view of opposition seems to be echoed in Vonnegut's story by setting limits to a legitimate opposition throwing away all aspirations about restoring justice in the community . Vonnegut again blends the dramatic with the satirical in an attempt to minimize the tragic truth underlying anti - democratic political systems.

In the story under study , Harrison is a character that symbolizes opposition and the American individual who displays more maturity than the rest of his social group (represented in his parents and the general handicapping men) . Readers are told in the beginning of the story that he was arrested but only towards its end that the reasons are revealed . Ironically, the announcer stated that Harrison Bergeron is " a genius an and athlete . . . that is why he is extremely dangerous " (Vonnegut, 1961, p.3) . The irony here that envelops Harrison , who is a symbol of resistance , is intended and directly linked to authority . In other words , because the target of the government's unfair strategies are the virtues the citizens have especially the mental ones , Harrison becomes therefore a threat to this government because of his super intelligence . Because of this , Harrison is tortured worse than the others : " instead of a little ear radio for a mental handicap, he wore a tremendous pair of earphones , and spectacles with thick wavy lenses . The spectacles were intended to make him not only half blind , but to give him whanging headaches besides " (Vonnegut, p.3). However , to smooth the tragic reality about torturing a teenager for his virtues , Vonnegut provides a comic description of Harrison's appearance due to the excessive devices he is required to wear to cover his good looks . The devices give Harrison a clownish look . (Vonnegut , p . 3)

The final act of resistance bears as well Vonnegut's satire , for in addition to satirizing the American anti - democratic institution to uncover the discrepancies of such political systems , Vonnegut tarnishes the act of resistance with ironical implications . Indeed , the heroic scene of the story is unexpectedly coated with the ridicule . The clownish huge Harrison , that finally gets rid of the handicapping devices , stands in the center of the studio claiming himself the emperor and that " everyone must do what *he* says at once " (Vonnegut, 1961, p.4.) .

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

These words suggest a non - conformist who wants to undermine an unfair authoritarian government only to create another one . The act of destroying the handicapping devices is highly symbolic of opposition and the ballerinas act in joining Harrison implies people's internalized rejection of the oppressive laws that suppress their individualism and their personal virtues. However , after few moments of absurd excitement , the emperor is shot dead and order is restored .

There are significant implications of this absurd final scene of the death of the only opposing voice of the story . First, it implies Foucault's ideas that resistance can be a mechanism to strengthen the power of the government which can be noticed once the hero is dead . Moreover , the general handicapper's threatening gun aimed at the musicians makes them have their handicaps back . Order is restored by killing the opposition perpetuating the authoritarian governing system . Second , the fact that the execution is broadcasted on television suggests that not only the musicians , who experienced the short - lived rebellion, freedom , and justice, will not think again about rebelling , but also the whole community as well as the broadcasted execution of the rebel constitutes a deterrent to any potential non - conformists.

Ironically, the most dramatic heart - breaking scene of the story is that of parents so much handicapped to the extent of being unable to realize and reason meaningfully their son's death . However , Vonnegut shields the heart of his readers with George's ridiculous strange act who goes to fetch a can of beer right after watching the execution of his son . George behaves as if he was watching a movie while his wife sheds tears but fails to remember why . Their absurd dull acts evoke insanity as they finish their conversation comforting themselves by asking each other to try to forget sad things" (Vonnegut, 1961, p . 6). Harrison's freedom is denied and so is readers' relief . This pessimistic desperate absurd end that is both tragic and satirical may have the following possible explanation . Harrison fails in his attempt due to his incapacity to lead his rebellion in a correct direction which can be due to the heavy mental handicapping devices he had to endure. That is , instead of offering his readership a mature true hero to lead his community towards normality and justice, Vonnegut ironically offers us a mentally unstable hero . This desperate end implies the extent to which an authoritarian oppressive government can limit forms of opposition and raises awareness about the dramatic effects of conforming to similar ideologies . Since it is dystopian , Vonnegut's exaggerated pessimism may serve as a warning to the Americans against the future dangers of not questioning and adhering to any future anti - democratic practices.

Conclusion:

In conclusion , this article aims at examining the themes of authoritarianism and conformity with a focus on the chances of resistance in Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron". To have a thorough understanding of Vonnegut's messages regarding the themes in question , the study accompanies the thematic analysis with an exploration of the satirical techniques which Vonnegut employs throughout the short story . Studying the theme of authoritarianism , as defined by John Duckitt, reveals that the setting of the story is typically anti - democratic and authoritarian. This is shown through the analysis of the institutions that represent the governing system . Besides , another finding related to this theme is that oppressive systems have the freedom of thought as their primary target . It demonstrates that coercion and injustice in addition to the media are the mechanisms with which authoritarian power is achieved . Furthermore, the examination of the theme of conformity through analyzing the portrayal of characters makes the short story narratives stand as a warning against the dangers of adhering blindly to anti - democratic ideologies . In fact , the characters of the story , including Harrison's parents Hazel and George and the handicapping General , display a type of conformity that requires no questioning to the imposed ideology of the governing system . A reflection on the act of opposition and the implications of its failure serves as a further aspect to understand the work's statement about authoritarianism . Indeed, the pessimistic ending of the story , read in Foucault's notions about power and resistance , indicates that opposition in authoritarian regimes is hard to achieve if not impossible . The findings of the study as a whole demonstrate that the short story stands as a powerful and direct denunciation of anti - democratic authoritarian practices in the American political system . Some studies about Vonnegut's fiction refer to the satirical tone in the short story , yet they lack deep examination of the ingrained connection between the satirical techniques and the significant issues related to authoritarianism . Studying the short story's linked themes : authoritarianism , conformity , and resistance in the lens of established theorists and with reference to the satirical tools frees the short story from general interpretations of the issues in question and gives the article its specific contribution . The article serves to show that despite being a short story , "Harrison Bergeron " is packed with meaning and highly suggestive .

Satirizing American Authoritarianism: Power and the Limits of Resistance in Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

Bibliography

- Adorno, T. W., Frenkel-Brunswik, E., Levinson, D. J., & Sanford, R. N. (1950). *The authoritarian personality*. Harper & Row.
- Altemeyer, R. (1996). *The authoritarian specter*. Harvard University Press.
- Brown, K. (2009). "A launching pad of belief": Kurt Vonnegut and postmodern humor. In H. Bloom (Ed.), *Bloom's modern critical views: Kurt Vonnegut* (New ed., pp. 171–179). Infobase Publishing.
- Duckitt, J. (2005). Authoritarianism: Conceptualization, research, and new developments. In D. Osborne & C. G. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of political psychology* (pp. 177–197). Cambridge University Press.
- Eagleton, T. (1976). *Criticism and ideology: A study in Marxist literary theory*. Bookcraft.
- Foucault, M. (1976). *The history of sexuality: Volume 1: An introduction* (R. Hurley, Trans.). Pantheon Books.
- Foucault, M. (1982). The subject and power. *Critical Inquiry*, 8(4), 777–795. <https://doi.org/10.1086/448181>
- Hofstadter, R. (1966). *The paranoid style in American politics*. Lowe and Brydone.
- Hofstadter, R. (1963). *Anti-intellectualism in American life*. Vintage Books.
- Kelman, H. C. (1958). Compliance, identification, and internalization: Three processes of attitude change. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2(1), 51–60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002200275800200106>
- Orwell, G. (1949). *Nineteen eighty-four*. Secker & Warburg.
- Smith, G. R. (1997). *Silencing the opposition: Government strategies of suppression of freedom of expression*. State University of New York Press.
- Thomas, P. L. (2012). Lost in adaptation: Kurt Vonnegut's radical humor in film and print. *Studies in American Humor, New Series* 3(26), 85–101.
- Vonnegut, K. (1961). Harrison Bergeron. *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, 28(1), 1–6.
- Vonnegut, K. (2005). *A man without a country*. Bloomsbury.
- Orwell, G. (1949). *Nineteen eighty-four*. Secker & Warburg.
- Smith, G. R. (1997). *Silencing the opposition: Government strategies of suppression of freedom of expression*. State University of New York Press.
- Thomas, P. L. (2012). Lost in adaptation: Kurt Vonnegut's radical humor in film and print. *Studies in American Humor, New Series* 3(26), 85–101.
- Vonnegut, K. (1961). Harrison Bergeron. *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, 28(1), 1–6.
- Vonnegut, K. (2005). *A man without a country*. Bloomsbury.